

AUXILIARY GUIDE NUMBER FOR FEBRUARY

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

“Mormonism is the power of God unto salvation to the believer. It is a living force which will make us better every day we apply its truths and principles, and will take us back to the presence of our Father in heaven from whence we came.”—JOHN WELLS.

No. 3, Vol. 97

Thursday, January 17, 1935

Price One Penny

SPIRITUAL PLANNING

By HENRY A. SMITH

WE ARE LIVING in a day when importance is placed upon the making of plans for economic advancement. Planning, it is called, and it enters a variety of undertakings for the mental and physical pleasures of the people concerned.

With so much on economic planning finding its way into man's thoughts, there is grave danger of a poorly balanced diet of plans. There is a system of laws or set of plans, ante-dating any modern project, designed for man's spiritual well-being, and in these days when planning is in vogue man's attention should be drawn to a consideration of them.

They are laws of the Gospel of Jesus Christ whereby man might have joy eternally, and which lead him to salvation. One of the followers of these plans who incorporated them in his life had this to say about them: “The Gospel of the Son of God that has been revealed is the plan or system of laws and ordinances, by strict obedience to which the people who inhabit this earth are assured that they may return again into the presence of the Father and the Son.” No greater desire should be had in the mind of man.

It is necessary to legislate for these economic planning projects designed to harness the forces of nature and improve man's living conditions, but fortunately the true system of plans for spiritual prosperity exists already among us. Fortunate indeed are we that a merciful and loving Designer saw, before the creation was consummated, the conditions existing in this present-day world of men and made provision in His planning for a restoration of the Gospel plan.

Jesus Christ, the author of the plan of salvation, knew of the ways of men and the hardness of their hearts. He foresaw their turning away and utter abandonment of the Gospel plan, after He had personally ushered it in. So in this the Dispensation of

the Fulness of Times, and by revelation, which is His means of legislation, the Great Planner restored again to men His plans whereby they might return again to His presence.

Joseph Smith, a modern Prophet of Israel, more than one hundred years ago, announced to the world a heavenly visitation of the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, heralding the restoration of the true Gospel.

The foundation upon which the restored Gospel stands firm and strong, is revelation. By this means the Great Planner made known His will to those who accepted of Him.

He revealed to our forefathers laws which would guide them to prosperity, happiness, health and eternal life. He inspired their leaders to guide them safely through persecution which followed them at every turn. Under divine direction the Church flourished and grew. It prospered under adverse conditions and with this great Guiding Spirit at the helm, it moved into the unknown west, where the true plans for happiness and joy proved effective in making the desert to "blossom as the rose."

Faith in God's plan was the salvation of these people. They accepted His requirements at face value, and proved to their satisfaction the divinity of the plan of life given of the Lord through the Prophet Joseph Smith.

THESSE early leaders planned. Their plans included ways and means of providing for economic prosperity, not only for themselves but for the poor and fatherless among them. Their plans laid the foundation for our commonwealth of to-day. In this busy hum-drum struggle for temporal existence they were successful because the spirit of inspiration was with them. They found time to worship their God and to keep His commandments. That is the reason they prospered.

They had many occasions to feel the influence of a loving Heavenly Father. He caused that they should conquer the elements; He saved their crops from destruction because of their faith; He saved them from their enemies and He caused that they should prosper because they kept in mind the necessity of obedience to His revealed plans. He had planned for them. They were obedient. Therefore He blessed them abundantly.

To-day we reap the benefit of that blessing. When these men planned for their economic prosperity they kept constantly in mind God's plans whereby they might obtain spiritual joy.

It is a challenge to us.

The same Gospel plan, which they proved to their own blessed satisfaction, is with us in its majestic fulness. There is also the need for much the same economic planning as confronted the Pioneers. Cannot these two go hand in hand today as they did for the Mormon Pioneer?

They can and they must.

God's plan is the perfect one. It has not the errors of man's ways. Promises of happiness, joy in service, and prosperity are held for those who have learned obedience. In this true spiritual planning there is provision also for temporal blessings.

God expects the spirit of co-operation in His commandment to love Him and to "love thy neighbour as thyself." For all who keep these great commandments there follow temporal and spiritual blessings. There would be no cause for suffering among

mankind if this plan were adhered to. There would be no contention, strife, famine in a land of plenty, greed and other ills afflicting man, were he to accept literally this great step in spiritual planning.

God has required that man worship Him, that he observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. This is another of the great steps. It holds forth the promise of association of the Spirit of the Lord as a guide to mankind. Surely this is a requisite in true economic prosperity.

For the health of mankind, the Great Planner has also included His law. It is known among us as the Word of Wisdom. Its inspired message is the Mormon guide to health, without which there cannot be true happiness. It is a law for prosperity. The present leader of this great Church affirms the promise made by his predecessors, through the spirit of inspiration, that it is a law of prosperity. He promises there would be no economic depression and suffering of its resultant ills, if the people of the world were to adopt the Mormon Word of Wisdom.

These in addition to other laws, by obedience to which man can obtain earthly happiness and eternal salvation, are provided in the great Gospel plan.

Are we going to accept the great challenge that the Gospel holds forth, and in our present day economic planning make provisions for our spiritual growth? The Pioneer did, and built for us. We must also uphold his heritage and ours for those yet to follow.—(*Deseret News*, Church Section, December 15, 1934.)

AUXILIARY GUIDE FOR FEBRUARY

PRIESTHOOD

First Night. Branch Supervision, Chapter IV, "Sacrament Meetings." Read Doctrine and Covenants, Section 59. In this and the third week's lesson material, allowance should be made for the M. I. A. Sunday Night Joint Programme as occupying the evening of the first Sunday of the month; also the Mission instructions for Sunday School procedure on Fast Sunday should be remembered.

Second Night. Studies in Priesthood, page 31 only, "Duties and Authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood." Go through the entire list of references with the Doctrine and Covenants.

Third Night. Branch Supervision, Chapter V, "Testimony Meetings." Question for open-forum discussion: "What is the great value of Testimony Meetings to the Church member? To the 'friend?'"

Fourth Night. Studies in Priesthood, pages 32-36 (completion of chapter VI). This concluding material purposes to make clearer the duties and authority of the Priesthood to those who hold its power. As a special assignment for tonight, let each member of the class respond with the new *thought* that he has gained concerning the particular office in the Priesthood he holds.—G. HOMER DURHAM.

RELIEF SOCIETY

PLEASE note that the first three lessons for February involve the same theme, the importance of the common man. Comment on this, and link up the lessons as you give them. The first one on free agency implies

that the most humbly situated human being can attain the highest degree of salvation if he has the will to choose the *right* in every conflict of life. The social service lesson demonstrates that an improved physical environment, among the very poor, tends to higher spiritual development. The literary lesson discusses the poets of the people, who have sensed the glory that does, or could, exist in the souls of the underprivileged or average classes of men.

First Week. Opening exercises. Suggestion for songs: "School Thy Feelings," "Know This That Every Soul Is Free." Reading: "Invictus." This is also suggested for reading in the literary lesson, but is appropriate here, and could be well read on both occasions.

INVICTUS

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find me, unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate;
I am the captain of my soul.

WILLIAM ERNEST HENLEY

Lesson text: "The Agency of Man." Objective: Having fought for free agency in the great council in heaven, we should now justify the wisdom of that decision. Let us in every conflict decide for righteousness, thus earning salvation. Whatever our material conditions, we are, spiritually, masters of our fate.

Second Week. Opening exercises. Preliminary programme. Work and business. Lesson text: Teacher Topic: "Octavia Hill and the Housing Problem" (continued). Objective: To show Miss Hill's idea that proper housing is a means to spiritual and moral health as well as physical well-being.

Third Week. Opening exercises. Preliminary programme. A talk (five minutes): "What can poets find in ordinary conditions and ordinary people that is worth writing about?" Reading (any one): "Invictus," by William Ernest Henley; "Mastery," by Sarah Teasdale; "Gunga Dhin," by Rudyard Kipling. Lesson text: *Life and Literature*, "Poetry, New Themes and New Voices." Include in the lesson the reading of a number of poems. If the work of Masfield is not available, and the poems of Kipling are available, substitute Kipling for Masfield. Try to get the opinions of some of the class members on the poems read. Objective: "Today's singers must . . . find knighthood among the brave masses of mankind, and see the madonna-love in the heart of womankind."

Fourth Week. Opening exercises. Preliminary programme. Ten-minute discussion of accidents in the home that have come within the experience of class members. How many were due to carelessness? Lesson text: *Social Service*: "Better safe than sorry." Objective: An ounce of prevention is still worth a pound of cure.—THE BRITISH MISSION RELIEF SOCIETY BOARD—RAMONA W. CANNON.

GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT

THIS notice is intended for all Genealogical officers and for all persons who are filling out Temple sheets for baptisms, endowments, and sealings for the dead.

Hereafter, the patron, and not the Mission office, must bear the cost of handling the Temple sheets. The sheets must be sent from the Mission office to Salt Lake City, from Salt Lake City back to London, and then from the office to the person in charge of the work. Added to the postage cost is the expense of checking and indexing the sheets at the Mission office. Of course, the facilities of the office are provided by the Church so that members who are active in sending Temple work have but little of the actual expense to pay.

A charge schedule has been worked out to meet the expenses: 4½d. for the first sheet; 1d. for each additional sheet; 1s. for a dozen sheets.

The payments may be made at the time the sheets are sent in, by stamps or by any other means.

These charges do *not* apply to One Family Group Records and Pedigree Charts.

LESSONS

Second Week in February. Lesson III, "Our Responsibility." *Laboratory Period:* Pencils, inexpensive paper, and your own Bibles will be used in this period to work out pedigrees of Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Genesis 10, 11.)

Fourth Week in February. Lesson IV, "For Whom Should One Seek." *Laboratory Period:* Books of Remembrance or good quality paper and pen and ink will be used to start "The Story of My Life," according to the outline in the Lesson Manual. Pictures to illustrate the story should be brought to class.—CONWAY A. ASHTON.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

LESSON MATERIAL

The Mission Board and the General Board of the Sunday School feel the need of better teaching among our organizations. One of the most important steps in getting better teaching, and the very first step, is to equip the class with Sunday School Lessons, which can be ordered for one shilling per year from the Mission Bookstore.

"When the limitations of the lecture method of teaching are recognized and the importance of pupil preparation and activity are appreciated, the need for a convenient means of putting text material for study and for the direction of activities into the hands of pupils is felt.

"The average family is now able to purchase Sunday School text material in the form of Sunday School Lessons Quarterlies for the whole family for the same amount of money as was spent for one textbook formerly. Five times more pupils are provided with textbooks.

"More serious, systematic, purposeful, orderly classwork is made possible when all pupils have the class text material. A higher grade pupil preparation can be secured with greater ease. More successful supervised study can be conducted. Assignments can be better made and fulfilled. Learning is thus facilitated. Incidentally, order and discipline are improved and better teacher-pupil relations are established.

"From year to year the Lesson Quarterlies are revised and improved. They are designed to give the pupil an abundance of stimulating and enriching material. Teachers who will work them purposefully into their teaching plan will find them an invaluable aid to effective teaching.

"Teaching which is limited to the pupil's Lessons Quarterly will necessarily be inadequate, so use of *The Instructor* first and material from outside sources next assures the teacher's mastery of the subject matter which is essential to successful teaching.

"Every pupil should have his own text material. Every Sunday School should have a reserve supply of Quarterlies to lend to visitors and others as a means of encouraging them to participate in the lesson discussion."—(From the *Sunday School Handbook* prepared by the General Board.)

It is the desire of the British Mission Sunday School Board that every Sunday School member should have a lesson book, and to help the membership to attain this objective, we are offering a rebate of 10 per cent. of the cost of the lesson books.

To secure this 10 per cent. rebate every member of your school must have a lesson book by March 1st. After you have satisfied the Mission Board that your order is 100 per cent. you will receive your rebate. The report must be made within 30 days from March 1st.

The earlier you make the 100 per cent. the easier it will be! Lose no time in getting over the top.

If you have already ordered lessons for your school, you are still eligible if you make additional orders so that each member of the school has his own lesson. The Kindergarten department is not considered, and if only half of your Primary class can read, then only those need to have lessons to make the 100 per cent.

The Mission Bookstore has a good supply of most lessons. Order immediately! Remember the closing date is March 1st.—DAVID H. WILLMOTT.

REPORTS

As new people come to Sunday School as the result of enlistment work, questions of enrolling them arise.

There is nothing to be gained by delaying the adding of names to the rolls. It is important that all persons who attend Sunday School regularly, whether they be Church members or not, should be enrolled after attending for *three weeks in succession*.

After a similar period of absence, three weeks in succession, the name may be counted as on the enlistment roll for purposes of the monthly report and minute book.

The present ambition is, through enlistment work, to bring new members into the Sunday School and then through excellent services and class work, hold them. The degree to which a Sunday School is succeeding in this should be reflected in the monthly report of enrolment and attendance.—WILLIAM O. CHIPPING.

TWO-AND-ONE-HALF MINUTE TALKS: The two-and-one-half minute talks should be assigned to the proper departments by the superintendent sufficiently in advance for them to select a representative to give the talk and to determine the subject of the talks. The subject should be appropriate to the age of the speaker.

SINGING PRACTICE: Suggested hymn for this month is "God of Our Fathers." Special attention should be given to the bass and tenor to obtain the best effect.—THE MISSION SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD.

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATIONS

YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMME EVENTS—TO COME

February—Drama: Plays
April—Committee's Choice

March—Music Festival
May—Branch and District Honour Days

SUNDAY EVENING JOINT PROGRAMME FOR FEBRUARY

Opening Hymn: "Let Zion In Her Beauty Rise."

Invocation.

Congregational Hymn: "Have I Done Any Good in the World Today?"

Ten-Minute Slogan Talk: "The 13th Article of Faith as a Standard of Action."

Special Musical Number.

Address: "What About Religion?" (See the M Men or Gleaner Texts.)

Congregational Hymn: "Hail to the Prophet Who Pointed the Way."

Address: "Mormonism in a Changing World." (*In the shifting sea of present day morats, the Latter-day Saint standard of wholesome life remains unchanged. See article in Star, September 27, 1934, by Elder Melvin J. Battard. Bring out the facts in Mormonism that insure the standard of the good life.*)

Closing Song: "Guide Us, O Thou Great Jehovah."

Benediction: A Gleaner Girl.

WEEKLY PRELIMINARY PROGRAMMES—SPECIAL FEATURES

"Sing a little song every day for M. I. A."

Music Festival time is approaching in March. To get in the spirit for it, let us spend some time henceforth each night with the *M. I. A. Song Book* (we have ordered another hundred). We are outlining one slogan talk only for February; assign it for the night you prefer, and use the entire time of the other evenings in a grand "sing-song" from the *M. I. A. Song Book*.

The Slogan Talk: "The Relation Between Gift-development and the Slogan."

SCOUTING: M. I. A. Presidents are reminded that their Mutual is not fully organized if there is not a Scout troop in it.

SCOUTERS: Get your troops well advanced in their tenderfoot stages so that the coming spring may be well spent outdoors, relative to Second Class work. See that your winter indoor programmes are interestingly enjoyable and uplifting. Do not waste time during patrol work period, but see that each boy is busy and given help on subjects that may be retarding his progress. Let *Scouting For Boys* guide you in your problems and be sure to let us help whenever possible. Write your problems to us at the office, 5 Gordon Square, London, W. C. 1. We are eager to help you firmly establish Scouting in your branch.—LEWIS H. TARR.

BEE-HIVES: Throughout the Mission many of our Bee-Hive girls are preparing Bee-Hive costumes, which, so far as possible, we would like to be uniform. The costume promotes group spirit and enthusiasm. It should be worn at all swarm meetings, kept neat and clean, and should not be worn except when the wearer is engaged in Bee-Hive activity. It must represent the Bee-Hive colours—brown for the body of the bee and the hive; blue for the favourite colour of the bee; gold for the most important thing in the hive, the Queen Bee. So far as circumstances allow, we would like the girls to wear a two-piece costume, a shantung middy blouse, blue silk tie, dark brown skirt. Everyone should have the blue felt bandlo, information concerning which may be obtained from the Mission Bee-Keeper.—ROSE B. BAILEY.

M MEN POINTS: *Point Five:* Did you follow the points for December? Have you developed an athletic activity on a non-Mutual evening? If not, do so now, for activity is life.

Point Six: What have you in view for 1935? Drama and Music should be prepared for. February and March are earmarked for their public presentation. And of course M Men should be looking forward to staging a real M Men banquet later in the spring.

(Continued on page 43)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1935

EDITORIAL

DIVINE GUIDANCE IN PERSONAL AFFAIRS

RECENTLY a friend came to us seeking advice on some matters that were wholly personal. Should he or should he not do several different things relative to his business affairs? What were the wise things to do? Could he foresee the future his judgment would answer him and he would not be in doubt, he said. This friend is a man of experience. He has learned that, "in counsel there is safety." He knows that usually in every problem there are a number of different factors, and that a wise solution takes them all into account, giving each its relative importance.

Now of course in matters of this kind a knowledge of conditions as they will exist in the months or years to come, would be very helpful. But, this knowledge is usually denied us. And so an element of uncertainty is always present in our determination of problems where futurity is involved. This is the human view of the matter.

But there is another view that might well be taken—the one that involves divine guidance. Latter-day Saints accept wholeheartedly the doctrine of modern and current revelation in Church affairs. We believe that the Lord has revealed and continues to reveal Himself to His prophets—to those whom He has appointed to lead His Church. In fact, we believe that it is upon the rock of revelation that the Church has been restored in these modern times. Hence to us the heavens are not closed. This is not only a theological or Church belief—it is positive knowledge to countless thousands of believers in the divinity of Jesus Christ. It is answers to prayer that gives us this knowledge.

Now the purpose of this writing is to call attention to the fact that each one of us is entitled to divine guidance in his personal affairs. What else could the Apostle James have meant when he wrote: "If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him"? And one of our modern prophets, President Joseph F. Smith, was even more explicit. At the General Conference, April, 1912, he said: "Every individual in the Church has . . . the right to enjoy the spirit of revelation and the understanding from God which that spirit of revelation gives him for his own good. . . . Every man has the privilege to exercise these gifts in the conduct of his own affairs, in bringing up his children in the way they should go, and in the management of his farm,

his flocks, his herds, and in the management of his business; it is his right to enjoy the spirit of revelation and of inspiration to do the right thing, to be wise and prudent, just and good in everything he does. I know that this is a true principle, and I know that I know it."

But, we should not forget that every divine promise is given conditionally. With respect to an answer to a prayer for wisdom the Apostle James very clearly states the condition thus: "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea, driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord."

So the heavens are open to every worthy soul to receive the light, understanding and knowledge necessary to enable him or her to solve wisely the problems of daily life. But when we ask for guidance, let us be sure that we seek for wisdom to do the will of the Father, rather than our own will. In other words, when we go to the Lord let us be entirely willing to follow the inspiration that He gives us. We then shall do what is for our best good, even though it may not minister to our pride, selfish desires, or aggrandizement. And that it is for our best will be evident sooner or later.—JOSEPH F. MERRILL.

NEW MISSION HEAD APPOINTED FOR SOUTH AFRICA

LE GRAND P. BACKMAN, a Salt Lake City lawyer, has been appointed by the First Presidency to preside over the South African mission of the Church, according to a recent news despatch. He succeeds President Don Mack Dalton, who has directed the activities of that mission since January, 1929.

Elder Backman is well prepared to undertake the responsibilities of his new calling, having served as a missionary in South Africa from 1915 to 1919. His wife and four children will accompany him to his field of labour.

Enroute to Cape Town, President Backman will stop in London to consult with European Mission President Joseph F. Merrill. Upon the arrival of the Backmans in Cape Town, President and Sister Dalton and their two children will be released to return to their home in America.

GOD'S HEALING POWER MADE MANIFEST

By C. HARDING HORSLEY

AT 2:15 o'clock, Saturday morning, September 23rd, 1933, I was suddenly awakened by the ringing of the telephone in the mission home at Honolulu. Upon answering it, I found the call coming from Lawrence Raymond Kunz, Sr., calling from the Children's Hospital.

The tone of his voice was sufficient to tell me that he was

nervous and somewhat frightened. He pleaded that my companion and I rush to the hospital where his son, Lawrence Kunz, Jr., lay sick at the point of death.

After awakening my companion, we hurriedly dressed and in fifteen minutes we drove into the hospital yard. We hurried into the room where the sick child lay, finding the father and mother there waiting, yes, waiting, even for the child to die, for that is what the doctors had told them would happen. There they were trying to reconcile themselves to that which seemed inevitable, yet maintaining faith that the unseen power of the Almighty could rescue their son from the grasping hand of death.

The father explained to us that at 8 o'clock the previous night the child was perfectly well, filled with the ordinary vigour of childhood. Suddenly he was stricken very ill, and being uncertain and confused by his unnatural condition the parents removed him to the hospital at once. Immediately physicians were summoned.

The doctors seemed very puzzled concerning his condition, knowing not what his ailment was nor what to do to relieve him. Finally, they ventured to say that it looked as though he had been poisoned by a bean of a toxic nature or by an oleander bud. Whatever it was, it had paralyzed the child's lungs so that he could not breathe on his own power. Resorting to the last possible thing they could do for him, the doctors attached an oxygen tank and apparatus to his nostril, which was the only thing then keeping him breathing. The doctors realizing their limits, had given up the case. They had left the parents with the verdict that the child would die and nothing that they could do would stave off that which seemed inevitable.

Such was the condition of the child upon our arrival at the hospital. He lay with the oxygen tube in his nostril. The pressure of the tank forced the oxygen into his lungs. When they became filled, the child would belch, expelling the breath from his lungs, only to repeat again and again the ordeal. He lay in a state of coma, his eyes were even set; half shut they glared with that cold, glassy look so indicative of death. For more than two hours the child had been in such a condition.

The father turning to us and speaking said, "You are the only ones who can do anything for him, please administer to him."

YOU can well imagine our feelings when called upon to perform such an ordinance under such conditions. What blessing could we give the child?

Elder E. Taylor Murphy, my companion, being the junior elder, anointed and I sealed the anointing, giving the blessing. I know not what I said, I do not even remember, but I do know that words were not forced. They came and flowed freely without effort, yet at the same time there came over us a feeling that the child would live and throw off death's hold upon him.

As we turned from the bedside, we found the parents with tears in their eyes, not tears of sorrow but of added hope for they, too, had received and felt that feeling of renewed faith.

There being nothing there that we elders could do, we bid them good morning and returned to the mission home. All that was left to do was to wait and pray in hope and faith, which we did. That same morning, as I took Brother E. L. Clissold to the

Rodgers Airport where he was to leave for a district conference on another island, he told me that he had just been up to the hospital to see the little boy. To his surprise and to the joy of the parents the child was breathing of his own accord without the use of any instrument of any kind. The parents were filled with great happiness because of the improved condition of the child.

By telephone calls throughout the day favourable reports were continually received.

The next morning, Sunday morning, as I was leaving the mission office for Sunday School, the father appeared at the door. He had for years been a Latter-day Saint, but never before had he carried within himself the firm conviction of the truth of the Gospel and power of God that he felt that morning. As he approached, he spoke:

"I want to thank you and your companion for what you did for our boy. The doctors had given him up and had left us alone. I know that it was only through you, the servants of God, and the power of the Priesthood which you bear that the life of my son was saved."

I told him that no gratitude belonged to us for the power that saved the child was not ours, except as it was exercised through us as bearers of the Priesthood.

He further stated: "I would give anything in the world for that power—the power to heal as you did that night." With a light and grateful heart, sealed in earnestness with a testimony of tears, he rejoiced exceedingly because of the blessing and testimony which had come to him. Likewise my companion and I enjoyed a similar increase of testimony and faith. Upon visiting the little boy that evening, we found him again perfectly well and strong, filled again with happiness and joy so visible on the face of a happy child.—(From the *Deseret News*, Church Section, December 22nd, 1934.)

MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATIONS

(Concluded from page 39)

Point Seven: Are all the members of your department full-fledged M Men? The M Men test should be passed without further delay. Say fellows, why not boost our aggregate enrolment as the Bee-Hive department has done?—JOHN BLEAKLEY.

GLEANERS: A competition has been arranged to centre about the "History" division of the Treasures of Truth project. Awards are to be given as follows: (1) For the best article on the history of your branch. (2) For the best article on the history of some historic spot near your home. (3) For the best "History" division-sheet submitted. Entries must reach the "Treasures of Truth Contest," 5 Gordon Square, London, W. C. 1., by April 1, 1935. The best articles will be used in the Mission Treasures of Truth book. It is suggested that leaders urge all girls to submit articles, but not to use class time to write them.

The topic for discussion on the third night of this month is "Gifts of the Spirit."—ELISE MACE.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY COMMITTEES: For February drama purposes we have a few one-act plays on hand at the Mission Office, including fifty

copies of the "Gift of Story Telling." Other plays may be secured from Abel Heywood and Sons, 47 Lever Street, Manchester.

DIRECTORS: In producing plays, consult your *Drama Activity Manual* for hints in stagecraft. One of your best aids other than material will be a competent stage-manager, in charge of props and effects. An "Advertising Committee" should be assigned to get a "full house," arrange for tickets, their sale, etc. Remember, co-operation is the keynote to success—Activity Committees, Directors, Stage-managers, advertising, players, public, all cooperating will insure good drama. We shall be pleased to hear of your achievements.—BRITISH MISSION COMMUNITY ACTIVITY COMMITTEE—MADELINE E. R. HILL.

SECRETARIES: It would be a simple thing for secretaries to complete their reports each month, if, on the last M. I. A. meeting before the 20th, the secretary would fill in his or her report (a matter of two minutes), put it in an envelope and post it to the district supervisor on the way home.

If an officer holds two positions in M. I. A., he or she should only be counted once on the reports. Officers and departmental leaders in M. I. A. are: The executive officers, directors of the various appreciation courses, Adult, M Men, and Gleaner leaders, Bee-Keepers and Scoutmasters. *M Men presidents and vice-presidents, Gleaner presidents and vice-presidents, are not M. I. A. "officers and departmental leaders" and should not be counted as such on the reports.*—CATHERINE L. M. HORNER.

NOVEMBER STATISTICS

	Enrolment	Average Attendance of Enrolment	Visitors	Total Average Attendance
Y. M. M. I. A.	406	317	90	407
Y. W. M. I. A.	687	559	228	777

The above is a brief summary of the November 20th reports. It reveals a possibility for increasing our enrolment by placing the names of the 90 visitors to the Y. M. M. I. A. departments, and the 228 visitors to Y. W. M. I. A. departments, on the rolls. The Bee-Hive department is the largest department in the Mission with 290 enrolled. This is less than an average of four Bee-Hive girls to a branch, but it shows, however, the unlimited scope of our programme. Let us develop it further!—BRITISH MISSION Y. M. AND Y. W. M. I. A. BOARDS—G. HOMER DURHAM.

PRIMARY ASSOCIATION

"LEADING YOUTH, leading children to know God, to have faith in His laws, to have confidence in His fatherhood, and to find solace and peace in His love—this is the greatest privilege, the most sublime opportunity offered the true educator."—DAVID O. MCKAY.

The Mission Primary board wish, at this time, to remind the leaders that the close of the winter quarter brings the "half way" mark in the Primary year. September brought the "Home-coming party," and December the "Happy-time Christmas party." February brings the branch conference programme.

Each class has definite obligations to prepare the children for promotion or graduation next autumn. We desire that, at the beginning of auxiliary work next autumn, the children, according to age, will affiliate themselves with either the M. I. A. or the Primary, and that there be no duplications. Let us plan now in order that, in the autumn, our classes and organizations shall be composed of children of the ages as outlined by the Mission Boards,

It is important that the Primary lesson material—Bible Story, Busy Work, Ethical Story, and music and play—be given as outlined. If the children have completed the assignments, their activity books should show their records as follows: Zion's Boy's and Zion's Girls, at least twelve shield stickers; Larks, at least 17 candle stickers; Bluebirds, at least 18 silver feathers; Seagulls, at least 22 small feathers and 6 silver feathers; Trail-builders, at least 22 hatchets, the passing of both the initial test and the first badge test. Trail-builders, having filled these requirements, should have the bandole and cap with the orange half moon in place. Each group should have pictures, gems, poetry, scripture, etc., given by the teacher as lesson enrichment. Each class should be awarded gold stars for attendance.

With each new quarter comes a new project. Our aim is to have the Primaries meeting their problems together. This can be done only by keeping to the schedule given.—MISSION PRIMARY BOARD, EIZABETH CORNWALL.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Doings in the Districts: London— On January 2nd, the officers of the Southwest London branch Primary staged a Christmas party at which members of the Primary classes were guests. Sixty came to participate in the good time planned for the afternoon. Sister Alice I. Tarr was in charge.

President and Sister James H. Douglas were the guest speakers at the Sunday services at the Southwest London branch, December 23rd, which were planned as a farewell in their honour. President and Sister Joseph F. Merrill and President and Sister Joseph J. Cannon were also present. This was the last meeting that the Douglasses attended in England. They left London for their home in America on December 29th. A large group of saints and missionaries assembled at Waterloo Station to bid them farewell.

Birmingham — Christmas carol singing was a remunerative form of recreation for the "Ivy Swarm" Bee-Hive girls of the Handsworth branch. On two successive Monday evenings, the group visited the homes of the branch members, to serenade them with Christmas songs. The money they collected was set aside for the purchase of Bee-Hive seals to be used in their Bee-Hive work.

A "Box and Bow" party, jointly sponsored by the M. I. A. organizations of the Handsworth branch,

was a social event of December 27th. Thirty-eight people enjoyed the programme, which included several numbers by friends of the branch. The money raised from the sale of boxes was deposited in the M. I. A. fund. In charge of the evening's entertainment were Sisters B. Horner and D. Green.

On Christmas Eve, the membership of the M. I. A.'s of Wolverhampton branch went carol singing. After an hour or so of carolling, they repaired to the home of Fred Corns, where seasonal refreshments awaited them. Sidney Corns, the M.I.A. organist, arranged the plans for the evening.

Auxiliary organizations of the Wolverhampton branch combined to stage a gala branch Christmas festival on December 27th at the Wolverhampton branch hall. In charge were Elder Ira A. Newsome, Y. M. M. I. A. president, and Sister Alice R. Moore, Relief Society president. The hall was colourfully festooned, and holly and mistletoe hung in profusion to give it a delightful holiday atmosphere. On a tall Christmas tree were gifts and presents for the children. The informal programme of entertainment included games and musical numbers. Sixty came to enjoy the evening's pleasantries.

Twenty-two boys and girls were guests at the Wolverhampton branch Primary party on December 28th. To cap an evening of

games and concert numbers, each little guest was given a Christmas present.

Elders A. W. Stringam and Preston D. Hoopes and local Elder George Elrick conducted a cottage meeting at the home of Sister Laura Jarvis, at Kettering, recently. Thirteen friends and investigators met to hear the first principles of the Gospel explained and discussed,

Hull—At the Gainsborough branch hall on December 7th, eighty-three members and friends met for a social and concert evening. A Hot Pie supper provided refreshments for the evening.

The young girls of the Gainsborough branch assisted the Primary officers to give a Christmas party for the branch children on December 27th. Guests numbered thirty-two.

At the home of Sister Mary E. Glass, in Driffield, on December 27th, Elders James J. Kirby and Kenneth F. Cropper held a cottage meeting. It was attended by several saints and friends who, because of the great distances between their homes and the organized branches of Hull district, are unable regularly to participate in the services of the Church. On January 3rd, a similar meeting was conducted at the home of Sister Margaret Lane, in Beverley.

To raise funds for the purchase of a few new song books for the Hull branch, the branch music committee sponsored a fish and chip supper on December 14th. Brother John W. Theakston and Sister Marion Barrett were in charge.

Children who were enrolled members and regular in their attendance at Primary were the guests at a Primary Christmas party in the Hull branch, Saturday, December 22nd. The party programme included, in addition to games and refreshments, and concert numbers by the children themselves, the presentation of awards for outstanding attendance records. Sister Marion Barrett, whose assistants are Sisters Vera Thistleton, Helen Bryant and Hilda Twidale, and Miss Lottie England, is Primary

leader in the Hull branch, and directed the affair. An M.I.A. Christmas social, arranged by the Y.M.M. I.A. officers, followed the Primary party.

Boxing Day was a social day for the entire membership of the Hull branch. Festivities commenced in the afternoon, when the Sunday School children were feted at a children's party at which Father Christmas, with his pack loaded with presents, was the chief attraction. In the evening, the older people joined the party, and dancing and games provided entertainment for all until closing time. The Sunday School officers planned and arranged the affair.

The New Year was greeted with fitting ceremony by Hull branch members and friends at a watch-party staged in the branch recreation hall on New Year's Eve. The entertainment commenced with a light supper, served at gaily decorated tables. Dancing and games made pleasant the waning moments of the old year, and at the stroke of twelve, the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" announced that the new year had come. In charge of Hull's last party of 1934 were the Y. W. M. I. A. officers.

Liverpool—Blackburn saints and friends met for a cottage meeting at the home of Sister Hasler, Thursday, December 20th. Talks were given by Sisters Louise Shaw and Hilda Brindle and Brother Arthur Woods.

Sunday School children of the Accrington branch were honoured guests at their annual Christmas party in the branch hall, Saturday, December 22nd. Each child was presented with a book, and then a programme of recitations and songs and games followed. Brother Herbert Taylor and Sister Jennie Taylor, Sunday School officers, planned the event.

The Burnley Sunday School held their semi-annual conference December 23rd. The special numbers on the programme were in keeping with the season of the year, and in the evening a tableau depicting the life of Christ was presented by the children.

The home of Sister Jenny Woods in Rishton was the scene of a Christmas Eve social under the direction of the Blackburn branch Y. W. M. I. A. Several novelty games, prizes and refreshments flavoured the occasion with a Yuletide spirit.

The Blackburn branch held their annual Sunday School party Saturday, December 29th, in the branch hall, which was decorated in the colours of the season to give a gay atmosphere to the festivities. A play by the M. I. A. was the main feature of the programme which preceded the games and entertainment for the children. For faithful attendance during the year, each child was presented with a gift by the officers of the Sunday School.

The annual children's Christmas party was given by the Sunday School and Primary of the Preston branch, Saturday, December 29th. For the occasion the hall was decorated in the Sunday School colours, red and white, to contribute to the splendid holiday atmosphere exhibited throughout. The party began early in the evening with refreshments being served to the children and their parents at gaily decorated tables. The climax of this gala event was the visit of Father Christmas. He brought a present for each child. The affair was under the supervision of Sister Bessie Corless of the Sunday School, and Sister Rosa Webster, President of the Primary.

Nottingham — Primary children of the Derby branch provided much of their own entertainment at the branch Christmas party, conducted December 29th. But it remained for the Primary officers and teachers to provide the evening's great surprise. After the children had completed their programme of songs and recitations, a Christmas tree, laden with gifts and goodies was brought into the room. On its branches, Branch President Joseph Stout found presents for all, and the evening was concluded in happy fashion with games and pleasantry. Sisters Sarah Sworder, Emma Bradley and Geraldene Gladys Orme planned the party.

The Primary and Sunday School of the Leicester branch combined to entertain the children of the branch at a Christmas party on January 5th. The programme was presented entirely by the children themselves, the feature of the evening being a sketch entitled, "Curly-Locks," which was staged under the direction of Sister Elizabeth Welch, the Primary superintendent. Refreshments were served to the children, and each was given a small present on leaving. The next branch party is planned for February 9th, and will be under the direction of the Bee-Hive Girls and the Scouts.

Scottish—Before a delighted audience, composed largely of parents and friends, the Primary children of the Aberdeen branch performed with great credit to make the Primary Christmas social and concert, held on December 21st, an outstanding success. The varied programme included a play entitled, "The Enchanted Teapot," and well-rehearsed songs and dances. At the conclusion of the entertainment, refreshments were served to both performers and guests. Sisters Margaret Cruikshank, Mary Hendry and Elizabeth Edwards were in charge of the affair.

Sheffield—On Saturday, December 29th, the children of the Doncaster branch Sunday School were guests at an afternoon party as a reward for their attendance in Sunday School. After a short programme, and refreshments, the kiddies were presented with their prizes and other small acknowledgments of fruit and toys.

The Sheffield branch Relief Society sisters, in accordance with their usual custom, staged a gala party on New Year's Eve. A carnival dance, with favours and festive fun, it attracted a huge crowd of non-members as well as saints. In charge was sister Martha Smith. Into the building fund went the money realized from charge for admittance.

Newcastle — Forty-six guests came to the Middlesbrough Primary party held on Christmas day. Forty-five were children. The other guest was Father Christmas.

impersonated by Brother Robert W. Pickersgill, who produced from his pack enough sweets and nuts and oranges and other goodies to fill forty-five small tummies to the bursting point. But the children did more than eat. They gave a concert programme all their own while they were waiting for Santa's advent, that included a variety of songs and recitations. Sister Nellie Thompson and the officers of the Primary were in charge of the affair.

Ulster—The Ulster branch children's Christmas party was an event of Saturday, December 22nd. The evening was one joyous round of popular games, which was climaxed by the giving of a Christmas toy to each of the happy young guests. Seasonal refreshments were, of course, a part of the programme. As a feature of the evening, the Primary children presented Sister Jean B. Cussans, their Primary leader, with a gift to betoken their appreciation of her service to them.

"The Gift," a musical tableau depicting the scriptural story of the birth of the Saviour, was presented as a feature of the Christmas programme in the Belfast Sunday School service, December 23rd. The tableau scenes were enacted in costume by children of the Sunday School classes. As a musical background, a chorus of young ladies sang a beautiful medley of Christmas carols. Miss Annie Bamber was the soloist, and there was a selected trio rendition of "The First Noel." The linking message of the

tableau was read by Sister Nan McCurdy. Elder John Ridge Hicks, whose mother, Sister Florence H. Hicks, wrote the script for the tableau, directed its presentation.

Boxing Day was the date of the Belfast branch M. I. A. Christmas party. A short concert, games, and the serving of delicious refreshments comprised the evening's activities, which were under the direction of Brother J. Ditty, Sister Ruby Gillan, and the Y. M. and Y. W. M. I. A. officers.

Welsh—Heavy rain did not dampen the spirit of gaily felt at the Varteg branch Harvest Ball, held in the Memorial Hall on December 6th. Music was furnished by the Manhattan Dance Band. Miss Gladys Lewis and Sister Florence Pulman of Merthyr gave an exhibition of the "Waltz Supreme" which drew a good deal of applause. Mr. Jack Jenkins and Miss May Evans won prizes in a "Statue Dance." President Richard C. Thomas headed the activity committee responsible for arrangements.

Personal—Marlene Rita Hamstead was the name given to the infant daughter of Brother George Hamstead and Sister Emma F. Hamstead in a blessing pronounced by the child's father September 16th, in the Rawmarsh branch.

To Brother and Sister Thomas J. Bourne of the Liverpool branch was born a daughter on December 6th.

CONTENTS

Spiritual Planning	33	Personal Affairs	40
Priesthood	35	New Mission Head for South	
Relief Society	35	Africa	41
Genealogical Department	37	God's Healing Power Made	
Sunday School	37	Manifest	41
Mutual Improvement Associa-		Primary Association	44
tions	38	From the Mission Field... ..	45
Editorial: Divine Guidance in			

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